

REMARKS

Claims 22 - 33 were presented for examination.

As understood, claims 22 and 29 have been rejected as indefinite under 35 USC 112 because of the phrase "mainly consists of" in claim 22, and because claim 29 depends from canceled claims "18."

To overcome this rejection, claim 22 has been amended to change "mainly consists of" to "includes," and claim 29 has been amended to change its dependency from claim "18" to claim "28." As amended, claims 22 -33 are now definite.

As understood, claims 22 - 33 have also been rejected over art as follows: (1) claims 22, 23, 26, 27 and 33 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Braus et al in view of Wegner et al; (2) claim 24 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Braus et al in view of Wegner et al and Hartel et al; (3) claim 25 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Braus et al in view of Wegner et al and Stiff et al; (4) claims 28 and 29 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Braus et al in view of Wegner et al and Runton et al; (5) claims 30 and 31 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Braus et al in view of Wegner et al and Board, Jr. et al; and (6) claim 32 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Braus et al in view of Wegner et al and Sumiyoshi et al

All of the cited and applied references were of record except the Wegner et al patent. It, along with Braus et al form the basis for each of the noted rejections.

Each of the noted references have been carefully studied, None of the references, including the newly cited Wegner al reference teach ***orienting the short fibers*** so that ***20 or more wt.%*** are oriented ***in an axial direction along which the magnitude of the load is large.*** This specific orientation See, for example, page 5 of the specification wherein it is stated that the short fibers are oriented "...***so as to enhance the buckling resistance against a thrust load, and the pressure resistance in a radial direction against a radial load.***" If load resistance in the axial direction is desired, then the orientation of the short fibers is made so that 20 or more

wt.% are oriented in the axial direction. If load resistance in the radial direction is desired, then the orientation of the short fibers is made so that 20 or more wt.% are oriented in the radial direction. And, if load resistance in both the axial and radial directions is desired, then the orientation of the short fibers is made so that 20 or more wt.% are oriented in both the axial and radial directions. The short fibers can even be oriented in the circumferential direction (claim 24). The orientation is a function of the load to be reacted.


No single reference teaches this orientation and no combination can be constructed which would teach this combination. Please consider *In re Gordon*, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984). See also, *In re Vaeck*, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991), and *In re Dance*, 48 USPQ2d 1635 (Fed. Cir. 1998). Note the consistency of the Federal Circuit with respect to the application of 35 USC 103. When applied against the facts in this application, only one conclusion results, namely, that the claims are patentably different from the references because the orientation feature claimed is not to be found in any of the references..

Claim 22 has been further amended to recite the radial stacked configuration partly defined in claim 28. Accordingly, claim 28 has also been amended to render it consistent with claim 22 as now amended.

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In view of the foregoing, the examiner is urged to reconsider this application and find claims 22 - 33 allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
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